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POSTAL REGULATORY
COMMISSION
U.S. DEPARTMENT OF JUSTICE

September 12, 2017

Postal Regulatory Commission
901 New York Avenue NW, Suite 200
Washington, DC 20268-0001

RE: Docket No. RM 2017-12

Dear Commissioners:

We are writing on behalf of the National Committee to Preserve Social Security and Medicare and most importantly, our members who rely on our organization and its work to defend and strengthen their earned Social Security and Medicare benefits.

The National Committee relies on the U.S. Mail to raise a significant portion of our funds as well as to engage the public in advocacy campaigns. Without the mail, our fundraising would suffer severely and, consequently, so would our mission. We simply do not understand why there is a sudden need to increase nonprofit marketing mail rates for the nominal benefit of commercial marketing mail. This would seem to fly in the face of the rationale of the law granting nonprofits a discounted rate.


As a practical matter, introducing unanticipated increases such as those proposed by USPS will mean that our fundraising budget will not be able to keep pace with the increase in postage costs. The inevitable result will be a reduction in our use of the mail, a reduction in our revenues, a reduction in our ability to serve our members and to advocate on their behalf, and a reduction in revenue for USPS as our mail volume decreases.

In conclusion, this penny wise pound foolish proposal hurts the National Committee, USPS, but most of all our members who will suffer from a reduction in our ability to advocate for them before Congress to prevent cuts to Social Security and Medicare, to advocate for badly needed expansions of these programs, and to provide them with educational information that allows them to follow the ebb and flow of policy discussions on these programs of vital interest to them.

Please do not change the current system for calculating nonprofit rates. We see no pressing need for this change, especially not one that will do harm to all nonprofits using the mail.

Very Respectfully,


Max Richtman
President and CEO


Michael Prucker
Chief Operation Officer


Christine Kim
Chief Financial Officer


Deborah Johnson
Director of Marketing